

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**MID-PACIFIC REGION**

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**MARINA COAST WATER DISTRICT REGIONAL URBAN RECYCLED WATER PROJECT**

**DRAFT FONSI-06-23**

Recommended by:

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**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Marina Coast Water District Regional Urban Recycled Water Project**

In accordance with the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the approval of a contract change for Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (Pollution Control Agency) for the delivery of recycled water from irrigation to municipal and industrial (M&I) uses. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-06-23, *Marina Coast Water District Regional Urban Recycled Water Project*, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

To facilitate the delivery of this recycled water, Marina Coast Water District (MCWD), in cooperation with the Pollution Control Agency, will construct a distribution system to provide up to 1,727 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water from the existing Pollution Control Agency's Salinas Valley Reclamation Plant (Reclamation Plant) to urban users. This recycled water will be delivered initially to the former Fort Ord (Ord Community), which includes lands within the jurisdictions of the Cities of Marina, Seaside, and Del Rey Oaks; California State University, Monterey Bay; University of California, Monterey Bay Education, Science, and Technology Center; and the County of Monterey.

**BACKGROUND**

The Reclamation Plant was originally developed to provide recycled water for agricultural purposes and was funded by Reclamation, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency in 1995. As required under the contract, any changes from agriculture water to M&I water requires additional environmental review and approval by Reclamation.

The primary water supply source for MCWD and agricultural and municipal users in the Ord Community and Monterey Peninsula is well extraction from the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (basin) which has undergone seawater intrusion since the 1930s. In 2002, MCWD, in cooperation with the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, prepared the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP). The RUWAP was a programmatic evaluation of water supply alternatives in order to identify feasible water augmentation supplies capable of meeting the water demands for redevelopment of the former Fort Ord as anticipated by the Fort Ord Reuse Plan (Reuse Plan) and its accompanying Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The amount of groundwater currently available from the basin for MCWD to use at the former Fort Ord is limited to 6,600 AFY pursuant to the Annexation Agreement of Fort Ord. The Reuse Plan anticipates that a total of 9,000 AFY will be needed to provide water for redevelopment of the former Fort Ord; therefore, a balance of 2,400 AFY of water is needed to augment the 6,600 AFY of available groundwater. The RUWAP's key objective is to provide 2,400 AFY of water to meet anticipated demands in the former Fort Ord area. An additional 300 AFY of water is planned to supply the Monterey Peninsula, and 300 AFY of water is being considered to supply MCWD's other service areas. Therefore, an additional 3,000 AFY is needed to meet RUWAP project objectives.

The Proposed Action will satisfy the regional water demand of up to approximately 1,727 AFY by delivering recycled water. The remaining balance of needed water will be provided by seawater desalination.

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following findings:

## **FINDINGS**

### **Air Quality**

Under the Proposed Action construction activities and operation of the water storage delivery system will result in emissions that have the potential to affect air quality. Therefore, potential impacts to air quality from the Proposed Action would be mitigated through implementation of environmental commitments for reducing fugitive dust such as watering active construction areas, covering stock piles and trucks carrying loose soil, limiting traffic speeds to 15 miles per hour, and replanting disturbed areas as quickly as possible, as well as reducing exhaust emissions by limiting hours of operation of equipment contributing to exhaust emissions and/or applications of catalytic filters or oxidation catalysts to all diesel-powered equipment.

### **Biological Resources**

Most of the habitat types required by species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act do not occur in the project area. Two federally-listed species have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Action. They include the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*; CTS) and Monterey Spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*). Reclamation will initiate Section 7 consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service once the Draft EA has been submitted for public review.

### **Cultural Resources**

Construction activities associated with this project were determined to be the type of activities that have the potential to affect historic properties. Based on the findings of a field reconnaissance survey, carried out in support of this project, Reclamation consulted with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) requesting concurrence on a finding of no historic properties affected. SHPO concurred with this finding on March 23, 2008.

### **Indian Trust Assets**

There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the United States in the land involved with this action and the nearest ITA is Lytton Rancheria, located approximately 89 miles north northwest of the Proposed Action area; therefore, there would be no affect to ITAs.

### **Socioeconomic Resources**

The Proposed Action is expected to have minimal influence on the economies of the communities within which the Proposed Action facilities are proposed; therefore, there will be no long term effects to socioeconomic resources.

### **Environmental Justice**

The Proposed Action will not disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations since there will be implementation of environmental commitments such as notification

of disruptions to access routes due to construction, continued access to public transportation in areas of construction, as well as access to open space, park, and public areas at all times.

### **Geology and Soils**

The Proposed Action will not result in any additional geologic impacts beyond those identified in the RUWAP EIR. MCWD has adopted environmental commitments for reducing impacts to geological resources from the RUWAP EIR including conducting a project-specific geotechnical analysis, preparing design plans based on recommendations from the geotechnical analysis, and development of emergency response procedures.

### **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

MCWD has adopted environmental commitments for reducing impacts to the environment from hazards or hazardous materials from the RUWAP EIR such as consulting with the Fort Ord U.S. Army Base - Base Realignment and Closure Office to ensure that pipeline construction is within areas cleared of Military Munitions, using an Army-approved munitions monitor in areas where excavation exceeds two feet, providing safety training for all pipeline construction workers including what to do if munitions are discovered.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

The Proposed Action will not involve the extraction or treatment of any groundwater, nor would it interfere with groundwater recharge. Therefore, no impacts to hydrology or water quality are expected to occur due to the Proposed Action.

### **Land Use**

The Proposed Action is also consistent with the following plans: Monterey County General Plan; Fort Ord Reuse Plan; Century Monterey County General Plan; City of Del Rey Oaks General Plan; City of Monterey Draft General Plan; City of Seaside General Plan; and the City of Marina General Plan. Therefore, there would be no land use changes from the Proposed Action.

### **Noise**

During construction of the Proposed Action facilities, nearby residences may be temporarily impacted. The project will adhere to restrictions to reduce the construction noise impact to adjacent sensitive uses as set forth in the environmental commitments such as limiting construction activities to hours consistent with local noise ordinances, limiting nighttime construction activities to areas away from sensitive receptors (residences, nursing homes, hotel/motels etc.), locating stationary noise-generating equipment away from sensitive receptors, use of sound control devices, and notification of residence within 500 feet from construction areas in writing prior to construction.

### **Water Supply**

The Proposed Action will provide additional water supplies needed to serve the Ord Community, the Monterey Peninsula, and other areas outside of the Ord Community, such as the City of Marina, which will alleviate the need for groundwater pumping and reduce the potential impacts to wells by seawater intrusion.

### **Wastewater**

The Proposed Action will not change the recycled water production processes at the Reclamation Plant; the project will simply modify existing infrastructures to allow for the diversion of produced recycled water from the plant via the Water Augmentation Pumping Plant and into the Proposed

Action pipeline. Therefore, there will be no changes in the quality of effluent discharged via the plant's outfall with operational National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit conditions continuing to be met.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The Proposed Action could contribute to cumulative construction-related effects on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and traffic. However, the construction-related effects of the Proposed Action are typically short-term and, therefore, have a relatively narrow window of construction time relative to other planned projects. Operational impacts of the Proposed Action are less-than-significant or avoided by adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the RUWAP EIR that requires implementation of the Environmental Commitments of the Proposed Action such as pre-construction and post-construction surveys and coordination with local agencies to reduce traffic and noise impacts.

### **Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources**

Although the Proposed Action will use minor amounts of both renewable and nonrenewable natural resources for project construction, this use will not increase the overall rate of use of any natural resource or result in the substantial depletion of any nonrenewable natural resource. Because the Proposed Action is not proposing the development of or creating access to previously inaccessible areas, the project will not commit future generations to adverse, irreversible changes. Though the Proposed Action has the potential to allow additional growth by providing additional water supplies, this growth is already planned by the local jurisdictions and Reclamation has not jurisdiction over growth-related planning.

The demand for electricity by the Proposed Action is less than one tenth of one percent of the production capacity of the Duke Energy Power Plant at Moss Landing (2,538 megawatts), the closest power plant that runs on natural gas, and electricity demand is not expected to present an adverse effect on the load for the electrical grid.

The Proposed Action has some effects due to the indirect emission of greenhouse gases from the production of new electricity demand needed to operate pump stations on the regional grid; however, it is not considered substantial, especially in comparison to more energy intensive water supply alternatives, such as seawater desalination.